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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1973

Dear Mrs. Mullins:

In responding to your August 2 letter, I wish first to assure you that the President and all associated with this frustrating situation share the anguish of the families of our military men who remain listed as Missing-in-Action.

The Department of Defense has informed us that you have been given all known facts surrounding the status of your husband, and that he was continued in a missing status after one year under the provisions of Section 555, Title 37, United States Code.

As you know, on August 6, 1973, the military Services were temporarily restrained by a federal court order from making any status changes unless the primary next-of-kin requested that they not delay action on information in their possession. This is the result of a class action suit filed on behalf of the next-of-kin of five missing in action men and of others in a similar situation. As a result of this suit, the military Services are enjoined from discussing the allegations of the suit's merits with the next of kin until the federal court renders its decision.

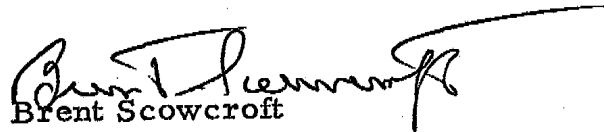
Defense officials also advise me that if you will reconfirm in writing to the Air Force that you request no delay in any action based upon information in its possession, your new request will satisfy the restraints imposed by the court and allow the Secretary or his designee to proceed with making the appropriate determination.

Your appeal to be heard regarding the present status of you and your family and the many other families in like positions is most sympathetically understood. I can only assure you that a

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final determination on your husband's status will be made by the Air Force as soon as it is permitted to do so.

Best regards,


Brent Scowcroft
Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Mrs. LaDonna A. Mullins
3708 Ivy Street
Denver, Colorado 80207

FACT SHEET
CONCERNING
SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT HAROLD E. MULLINS
MISSING IN ACTION

Senior Master Sergeant (then technical sergeant) Mullins departed Ubon Airfield, Thailand, at 5:00 p.m., June 3, 1966, as the flight engineer of an AC-47 aircraft on an operational mission over Laos. The flight to the target area was normal and as briefed with the aircraft maintaining approximately 5,000 feet of altitude. At 9:25 p.m., Sergeant Mullins' aircraft was observed, by the crew of another aircraft operating in the area, to be in flames. The only radio transmissions from the stricken aircraft advised that it was on fire and moments later the command to bail out was heard. During this period the aircraft was under continuous surveillance until it was seen to crash in a heavily wooded area. There were no parachutes observed nor were any electronic emergency signals heard. Because of darkness search and recovery efforts could not be initiated until first light the following morning, when a concentrated search effort was made of the area. This search was, of necessity, limited to electronic devices because of the adverse weather conditions in the area. Aerial photography taken of the crash site in a further attempt to locate survivors proved to be of no value in determining their status. Although every avenue was exploited in an attempt to locate them, there were no contacts made. The search was suspended on June 6, 1966, when the search commander made the determination that further attempts would be to no avail. Sergeant Mullins and the other five crew members continue to be officially listed as missing in action in Laos.

Sergeant Mullins' parents are deceased. His wife and two sons, Harold E. (age 16) and Marcel A. (age 15) reside in Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Mullins has been provided with all known facts surrounding his status. She has never hesitated to contact the Air Force Casualty Services Office (CSO) when she has had any questions. She has many times expressed her belief that her husband did not survive. In July 1968,

she threatened to write to her congressman so that he could have a status change made. The only high level inquiry contained in the casualty records was from The Honorable F. Edward Hebert, House of Representatives, during April 1972. The last contact with Mrs. Mullins was on August 10, 1973, when she requested information regarding the Court Restraint pertaining to status changes. She indicated that she had waited long enough and would like her husband's status changed from missing in action to killed in action.

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3078 Ivy Street
Denver, Colorado 80207

2 August 1973

Dr. Henry Kissinger
White House
Washington, D.C.

Attn: General Brent Scowcroft

Dear General Scowcroft:

As a wife of an Air Force man missing in action in SEA for eight years, I was shocked to hear that I may have to wait another eight years for a status change. However, if the events that are taking place in the 45th Federal District Court by Mr. Dernot Folley are any criteria, I may be in this situation.

I wish to go on record that I protest the class action suit and will sign any statement to this effect. I also wish to go on record as wanting a status change as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

LaDonna A. (Mrs. Harold Eugene) Mullins

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